

VDH Q Fever Glossary of Medical Terms

(Supplement to VDH's Q Fever Guidance for Healthcare Providers)

| Term | Definition |
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| Angina | Chest pain due to an inadequate supply of oxygen to the heart muscle. |
| Digital clubbing | A condition in which the ends of the fingers and toes are enlarged and the nails are shiny and abnormally curved |
| Dyspnea | Difficult or labored breathing; shortness of breath. Dyspnea is a sign of serious disease of the airway, lungs, or heart. The onset of dyspnea should not be ignored; it is reason to seek medical attention |
| Emboli | Something that travels through the bloodstream, lodges in a blood vessel and blocks it. Examples of emboli are a detached blood clot, a clump of bacteria, and foreign material such as air |
| Encephalitis | Inflammation of the brain, which may be caused by a bacterium, a virus, or an allergic reaction |
| Endocarditis | Inflammation of one or more of the heart valves and lining tissues of the heart |
| Heart murmur | An unusual, 'whooshing' heart sound that may be innocent or may reflect disease or malformation |
| Hemoptysis | Spitting up blood or blood-tinged sputum from the respiratory tract |
| Hepatitis | Inflammation of the liver, irrespective of the cause. Hepatitis is caused by a number of conditions, including drug toxicity, immune diseases, and viruses |
| Malaise | A vague feeling of discomfort, one that cannot be pinned down but is often sensed as 'just not right' |
| Meningitis | Inflammation of the meninges, the three membranes that envelop the brain and the spinal cord |
| Microscopic hematuria | Blood in the urine that is visible only under a microscope |
| Myalgia | Pain in the muscles or within muscle tissue |
| Myocarditis | Inflammation of the myocardium, the heart muscle |
| Osteoarthritis | A type of arthritis caused by inflammation, breakdown, and eventual loss of cartilage in the joints. Also known as degenerative arthritis |
| Osteomyelitis | Inflammation of the bone due to infection, for example, by the bacteria <i>Salmonella</i> or staphylococcus. Osteomyelitis is sometimes a complication of surgery or injury, although infection can also reach bone tissue through the bloodstream. Both the bone and the bone marrow may be infected. |
| Palpitations | Unpleasant sensations of irregular and/or forceful beating of the heart |
| Pericarditis | Inflammation of the lining around the heart (the pericardium) that causes chest pain and accumulation of fluid around the heart (pericardial effusion) |
| Photophobia | Painful oversensitivity to light |
| Placentitis | Inflammation of the placenta |
| Pleuritic chest pain | Chest pain pertaining to pleurisy (inflammation of the membrane that surrounds and protects the lungs (the pleura) |
| Pulmonary edema | Accumulation of fluid in lung tissues and alveoli |
| Purpuric rash | Purpura is a condition characterized by hemorrhages in the skin and |

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| | mucous membranes that result in the appearance of purplish spots or patches |
| Renal insufficiency | Reduced capacity to excrete metabolic products which accumulate systemically and are detectable by renal function tests |
| Splenomegaly | Abnormal enlargement of the spleen. |
| Vasculitis | A general term for a group of uncommon diseases that feature inflammation of the blood vessels |

Sources:

- MedTerms Dictionary. Available at <https://www.medicinenet.com/medterms-medical-dictionary/article.htm> (accessed November 15, 2018)
- TheFreeDictionary's Medical dictionary. Available at <http://medical-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/> (accessed November 15, 2018)